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## **IIT Holds 18th Convocation**

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The Informatics Institute of Technology has always prided itself on being the leader in providing quality IT & Business education in Sri Lanka. In collaboration with the University of Westminster UK, the IIT campus has once again produced top quality achievers in the field, evidenced at the recently concluded 18<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony of the institute held at the BMICH in Colombo.

Dr. Myszka Guzkowska, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Westminster, Dr. Gamini Wickremasinghe, Chairman of the Bank of Ceylon, Group Chairman of Informatics group of companies and founder of the Informatics Institute of Technology, Deshabandu Surath Wickremasinghe, former Chairman of the Informatics Group, Mr. Hasith Wickramasinghe, Deputy Chairman Informatics Group of Companies, Mr. Hiran Wickremasinghe the Managing Director Informatics group of companies, Mr. Sudharshan Welihinda, General Manager IIT, President of the software chapter of Federation of the Information Technology Industry and Services (FITIS) and Assoc. Prof. Alfred Perera, the Dean of IIT graced the occasion, and Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. Hussain Niyaaz, Mr. Hassan Adam, First Secretary, of High Commission of Maldives, Dr. Shanthi Melelland, Principal Wesley College and affluent alumni of IIT were among the other special Invitees.

The Dean of IIT, Assoc.Prof. Alfred Perera, in his welcome address whilst congratulating the new graduates on their achievements pointed out that he would like to compliment IIT for having been at the forefront of private tertiary education, where the much needed involvement of the private sector participation cannot be overemphasized.

This was followed by the presentation of certificates where over hundred of graduates received their Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Software Engineering, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information Systems with Business Management, and Master of Science in Advanced Software Engineering. The colourful ceremony was a joyous occasion where students who entered IIT as young undergraduates finally reaped the fruits of their hard labour and formally bid goodbye to 'student life'. Reflecting the high standards of education at IIT leading to overall personality development, the graduates marched on to the stage to receive their awards brimming with confidence; and appeared fully poised to take on the challenges of career and life ahead.

Ms. Taniya Annemarie Perera and Pamod Manudul Sylvester were recognized and awarded by the University of Westminster for their all round performance and the awards were presented by Dr. Myszka Guzkowska, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Westminster.

Students who achieved a high aggregate in their respective degree courses and performed exceptionally well, upholding the quality of education imparted on them by IIT, were awarded with the Dr. Gamini Wickramasinghe gold medals. Arangalage Rivindu Prasanga Perera and Lakshika Josephine Paiva bagged these medals in the BEng (Hons) Software Engineering and BSe (Hons) Information Systems with Business Management eategories respectively. They received their medals from the founder of IIT and Chairman of the Informatics Group of Companies, Dr. Gamini Wickramasinghe.

One of the highlights of the function was the conferment of the Honorary Doctorate awarded to Mr.Surath Wickremasinghe by the University of Westminster for his dedicated service to the industry and he also addressed the audience and thanked the University for this great honour that has been bestowed upon him.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Myszka Guzkowska, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Westminster stated that this was the eighth year of partnership with the Informatics Institute of Technology, and said that she was elated with the high standard of the students' performance which is a tremendous credit not only to their own study and initiative, but also to the high quality of the academic tuition and support, and the dedication and commitment of the academic staff at IIT. She also pointed out she was proud to note that IIT has secured Gold on three successive occasions at the annual National Best Quality Software Awards (NBQSA) competition conducted by the British Computer Society (SL branch). She also affirmed that the partnership between IIT and the University of Westminster is playing an important role in providing the education and qualifications which are so crucial to meeting the IT & Business development needs of Sri Lanka's economy and future success

in business and industry in the global markets within which it operates.

The ceremony stood testament to the many accolades and achievements of IIT students' performances in the fields of IT & Business. Committed to moulding the best 'industry versatile'; graduates, the unique characteristics of the IIT curriculum, each year ensures that graduates become fully geared to meet the challenges of the real business world.

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